

Reentry Branch
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Volume I Issue I

**"A SECOND
CHANCE TO
MAKE A
FIRST
IMPRESSION"**



You can begin preparing yourself to go home the day you are sentenced.

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What is Reentry?

The Kentucky Department of Corrections is fast approaching the two year mark of our initial introduction to reentry. During the November 2009 conference "Reentry in the Commonwealth of Kentucky: Changing Lives to Break the Cycle of Crime" the Department was introduced to the reentry philosophy and why Kentucky might want to change our approach.

As with all projects of this magnitude, it's good to stop and take stock of our progress, recognize those who are pushing the efforts forward and share plans for the future.

The reentry branch has decided that the best way we can accomplish this goal is to provide you with a monthly newsletter that will update you on the progress and development of resources and general information about reentry.

The Kentucky Department of Corrections and our staff will offer you the opportunity and tools to help you become a productive, tax paying citizen. We will assess your needs and provide you programming that will help address your risk of returning to prison and your program needs. Programs will require your partnership, however it will not provide money or a place to live. In addition we are working to develop resources in your communities that help provide support and additional information for you and your family. Community safety is everyone's responsibility.

The newsletter will be a source to update you on changes that are being made that will have an affect on you and your time while incarcerated or on parole.

TOLL FREE HOTLINE FOR RESOURCES

1-877- INMATE 4

OR

1-877-466-2834

**Going home is an adjustment.....
make yours easier**

**Social Services, Financial Information, Emotional Support,
Substance Abuse Treatment,
Community Resources and More**

INFORMATION ON MANDATORY REENTRY SUPERVISION

By John G. Hall, Branch Manager-Offender Information Services

Please be advised that pursuant to HB 463 2011 RS section 112 the mandatory reentry program will become effective on January 1, 2012. Additionally the provisions of this legislation provide that "The board shall order mandatory reentry supervision and the terms of supervision, which may include electronic monitoring, for an inmate who has not been granted discretionary parole six (6) months prior to the inmate's minimum expiration of sentence."

Pursuant to KRS 439.3406, an offender must meet the following criteria in order to qualify for Mandatory Reentry Supervision:

- ⇒ Must not be serving on a Class A felony or Capital Offense
- ⇒ Must not have a sentence of Death or Life Imprisonment
- ⇒ Must have reached their actual parole eligibility date
- ⇒ Must Complete the Substance Abuse Program if parole previously recommended contingent upon successful completion of the Substance Abuse Program and currently enrolled in the Substance Abuse Program
- ⇒ Must have reached their DUI date when applicable (DUI 4th offense with aggravator)
- ⇒ Must not be required to Complete Sex Offender Conditional Discharge
- ⇒ Must have completed the Sex Offender Treatment Program if convicted of a sex crime after July 15, 1998, and that sex crime was committed prior to July 15, 1998
- ⇒ Must not be Classified as Close Custody or Maximum Custody
- ⇒ Must have a total sentence greater than two years
- ⇒ Minimum Expiration date must be more than 6 months after the most recent admission to custody
- ⇒ Must be within six months of Minimum Expiration date
- ⇒ Must not have previously been released on Mandatory Reentry Supervision during their current period of incarceration

All offenders will be reviewed automatically for eligibility for the Mandatory Reentry Supervision program six months prior to their minimum expiration date therefore no action is required on the part of the offender.

Once approved, a qualified offender may choose to decline Mandatory Reentry supervision. An offender who accepts Mandatory Reentry Supervision will be eligible for Parole Compliance Credits (the equivalent of Meritorious Good Time) as well as all other credits available to a parolee. Any offender on Mandatory Reentry Supervision who successfully reaches their Minimum Expiration Date will complete their sentence and will be discharged from supervision at that time.

Parolee Orientation Reentry Training

Assimilation Lesson Plan

by Mark Stonex

What is PORTAL?

A fresh new approach to confronting barriers to reentry through a continuation of institutional programming by augmenting community services where they are present, and initiating them where they do not exist.

In the winter of 2007, the first PORTAL to Success pilot class was initiated in the Hopkinsville Probation and Parole Office designed for probationers and parolees. In the past four years the PORTAL program has expanded to 15 locations. Listed below are all the locations in Kentucky.

Paducah	Mayfield	Owensboro	Hopkinsville
Madisonville	Russellville	Franklin	Bowling Green
Glasgow	Columbia	Lexington	Pikeville
Louisville districts 17, 18 and 19.			

A Sample PORTAL to Success Advanced curriculum:
Making it On Parole-"The Mechanics of Community Supervision"

Employment Workshop

Adult Education

Nutrition

Relationship Issues

Effective Parenting Skills

Decision Making

Financial Information

Health and Wellness

Smoking Cessation

Addiction

Stress and Anger Management

Recently in Bowling Green, we created the most streamlined version of PORTAL titled "PORTAL BASIC." We are very excited about this new approach and it has been very successful for both Parolees and Staff:

A Sample PORTAL Basic curriculum

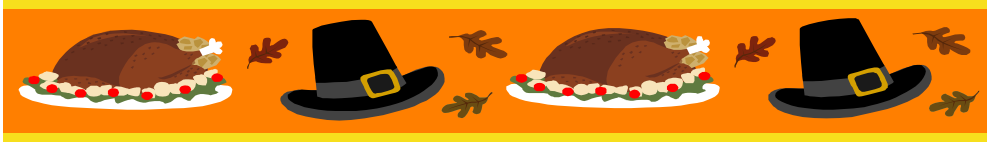
- ⇒ **Making it On Parole**
- ⇒ **Decision Making**
- ⇒ **Adult Education**
- ⇒ **Housing**
- ⇒ **Employment**
- ⇒ **Financial Information**

If you are interested in participating in the PORTAL program and meet the following criteria, please talk with your P&P officer. Criteria include:

- ⇒ Must be living in close proximity of one of the above listed locations.
- ⇒ Must be a probationer or parolee
- ⇒ Must be willing to commit to the program

Please talk with your P&P officer for further information.

MYTH BUSTERS.....



MYTH: People with criminal records are automatically barred from employment.

FACT: In Kentucky an arrest or conviction record will NOT automatically bar individuals from employment.

MYTH: The Federal government's hiring policies prohibit employment of people with criminal records.

FACT: The Federal government does not have a policy that precludes employment of people with criminal records from all positions. State government (Kentucky) decisions on convicted felon employment is made at the Department level.

MYTH: An individual cannot apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) benefits without a valid state-issued identification card.

FACT: A person can get SNAP benefits even if he or she does not have a valid state ID. It is helpful to have a state-issued ID when applying for these benefits.

MYTH: Veterans cannot request to have their VA benefits resumed until they are officially released from incarceration.

FACT: In Kentucky Veterans may inform Veteran's Affairs to request their benefits be resumed within 30 days or less of their anticipated release date based on evidence from a parole board or other official prison source showing the Veteran's scheduled release date. Kentucky's contact person is Kathy Vasquez, VA Medical Center, 1101 Veterans Drive, 122-LD, Lexington, KY 40502.

MYTH: Individuals who have been convicted of a crime are "banned" from public housing.

FACT: In Kentucky the local Public Housing Authorities have great discretion in determining their admissions and occupancy policies for ex-offenders. While PHA's can choose to ban ex-offenders from participating in public housing and Section 89 programs, it is not the Housing and Urban Development Department policy to do so. In fact, in many circumstances, formerly incarcerated people should not be denied access.

MYTH: Employers have no federal income tax advantage by hiring an ex-felon.

FACT: Kentucky employers can save money on their federal income taxes in the form of a tax credit incentive through the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program by hiring ex-felons. An ex-felon under WOTC is an individual who has been convicted of a felony under any statute of the United States or any State, and has a hiring date which is within one year of the date of conviction or release from prison.

More Myth Busters

MYTH: Non-custodial parents who are incarcerated cannot have their child support orders reduced.

FACT: Kentucky has a formalized process for changing child support amounts during incarceration. Contact your attorney or an institutional legal aide for assistance.

MYTH: Eligibility for Social Security benefits cannot be reinstated when an individual is released from incarceration.

FACT: In Kentucky Social Security benefits are not payable if an individual is convicted of a criminal offense and confined. (However, monthly benefits usually can be reinstated after a period of incarceration by contacting Social Security and providing proof of release.) Your institutional Reentry Coordinators can assist in preparing paperwork

MYTH: Child welfare agencies are required to terminate parental rights if a parent is incarcerated.

FACT: Important exceptions to the requirement to terminate parental rights provide child welfare agencies and states with the discretion to work with incarcerated parents in Kentucky, their children and the caregivers to preserve and strengthen family relationships.

MYTH: Businesses and employers have no way to protect themselves from potential property and monetary losses should an individual they hire prove to be dishonest.

FACT: Through the Federal Bonding Program (FBP), funded and administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), fidelity insurance bonds are available to indemnify employers for loss of money or property sustained through the dishonest acts of their employees (i.e., theft, forgery, larceny, and embezzlement). FBP is currently available in Jefferson County, Kentucky for newly released parolees that have a moderate or high risk of return.

MYTH: A parent with a felony conviction cannot receive welfare.

FACT: The 1996 Welfare ban applies only to convicted drug felons, Kentucky has a modified ban.

MYTH: A person with a criminal record is not eligible to receive federal student financial aid.

FACT: In Kentucky individuals who are currently incarcerated in a federal, state, or local correctional institution have limited eligibility for federal student aid. In general, restrictions on federal student aid eligibility are removed for formerly incarcerated individuals, including those on probation, on parole or residing in a halfway house.

MYTH: Individuals convicted of a felony can never receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) benefits.

FACT: This ban applies only to convicted drug felons, and Kentucky has a modified ban.



GOODWILL INDUSTRIES- REENTRY BY DESIGN PROGRAM

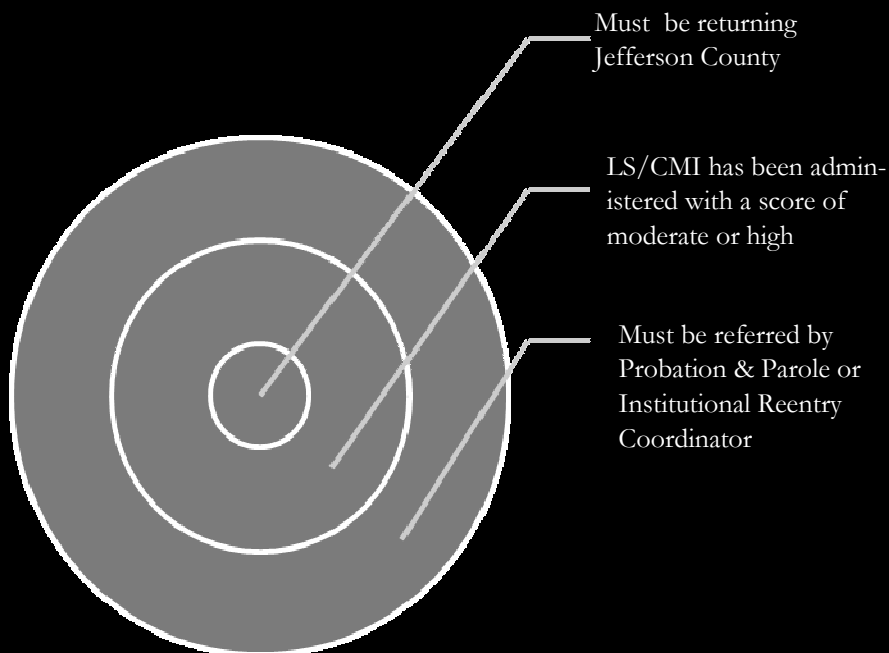
BY Chris Parker, CADC Workforce Development Specialist, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky

The Reentry By Design Program was developed to help individuals who have criminal backgrounds with **employment services**. Since it's inception Goodwill's Reentry By Design Program has served hundreds of individuals who have felony backgrounds. Of those served, 67 individuals have gained and maintained employment. Goodwill's Reentry program provides employment services through job leads and classes to help the participants maintain motivation during the job search. There is course curriculum that helps with various life issues including anger management, critical thinking skills, résumé development, introduction to online job search and job boards, as well as interview preparation and mock interviews.

The success of the Reentry By Design program is based on the amount of referrals from local parole officers and prisons around the state. The participants also add to the success by learning the changes they need to make in their personal and professional life and applying those changes to ensure they are the best employee for local employers.

The Reentry By Design program can help individuals who are returning to **Jefferson County** and who are on **parole**. The Reentry Program staff realizes that searching for a job on your own is a frustrating and often times a futile process, but with Goodwill staff working with the participants, the chances for an offender on parole to gain and maintain employment is **significantly increased**.

If you are on parole, live in or are returning to the Jefferson County/Louisville area and need assistance with employment services, contact your reentry coordinator or parole officer and ask for a referral to be emailed or faxed and then you will be contacted for the next class.



**GET ON "TARGET"
WITH GOODWILL
INDUSTRIES
REENTRY BY
DESIGN
PROGRAM**